

University Senate

September 16, 2009

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 112

Call to Order

Senate Chair Miller-Hooks called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Miller-Hooks asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 4, 2009 meeting. Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Chair Miller-Hooks reported that the Senate Executive Committee had been meeting with President Mote over the summer on budget related issues. She commended the open lines of communication and healthy relationship between the Administration and the Senate. She cited specific examples of their collaboration like the online suggestion box and the town hall meeting.

Chair Miller-Hooks reminded the Senate that the Town Hall would be held on September 22, 2009 from 12-1 p.m. in the Hoff Theatre in the Stamp Student Union.

Chair Miller-Hooks also explained that the General Education Task Force had begun meeting late last spring. They have developed the I-Series for the CORE program. The task force has invited members of the campus community to submit course proposals.

Chair Miller-Hooks also explained that she met with Charles Wellford, Chair of the Athletic Council. He explained that our campus is currently undergoing NCAA re-certification which is now done every 10 years.

Chair Miller-Hooks introduced each of the current year's committee chairs and gave a brief overview of their pending charges.

Chair Miller-Hooks asked Reka Montfort, Executive Secretary & Director, to give a brief overview of the new Senate legislation tracking system. Montfort explained that all Senate legislation will be posted on the website for the public to track. All of the 2008-2009 bills have already been uploaded and the 2009-2010 bills will be posted as they are presented this year. Montfort also explained that all relevant documents will be linked to each bill so that constituents could track the progress of each bill even after it leaves the Senate floor.

Committee Reports

A verbatim digital recording of the meeting is on file in the Senate Office.

Approval of the Standing Committee & Council Slates 2009-2010 (Senate Doc. No. 09-10-02) (Action)

Linda Mabbs, Chair of the Committee on Committees made a motion to approve the standing committee and council slates as presented. Miller-Hooks asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, she called for a vote of the Senate. The result was unanimous in favor of passing the slates. **The motion to approve the slates as presented passed.**

Approval of University Climate Action Plan (Senate Doc. No. 09-10-03) (Action)

Chair Miller-Hooks introduced Matthias Ruth, Chair of the Climate Action Plan Work Group.

Ruth gave a brief overview that the Climate Action Plan (CAP) was a result of President Mote's signing of the President's Climate Commitment. A work group was created with over 50 members from all campus constituencies who worked for a year on the plan. They created a living document that will be periodically updated and brought in line with new developments.

Ruth explained that there are seven key elements to the plan that span from administrative policies to power and operations of campus, transportation, campus services and activities, education and research, financial aspects and a monitoring and evaluation component. He explained that the CAP identifies 40 different strategies to reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases. The strategies look towards improving quality of life and reducing congestion on roads as well as other results that are difficult to measure. The ultimate goal is to identify a mix of strategies to reduce our carbon footprint.

Ruth explained that the CAP was presented to the Senate on April 6, 2009. The draft plan was released and a comment period opened. The document was also reviewed extensively by Vice President Wylie and President Mote.

Ruth stated that the CAP will be implemented under the supervision of the University's Sustainability Council.

Chair-Elect Mabbs made a motion to endorse the Climate Action Plan and Senator Tervalva seconded the motion.

Chair Miller-Hooks called for a vote on endorsing the University Climate Action Plan. The result was, the majority yes, 4 no and 1 abstention. **The motion to endorse the University Climate Action Plan passed.**

**Special Order of the Day
President C.D. Mote**

Chair Miller-Hooks introduced President Mote.

President Mote thanked the Senate Executive Committee for its partnership with the administration in helping the University deal with the difficult road ahead. He also thanked the Senate for serving as a forum for discussing campus views.

President Mote acknowledged the difficult budgetary challenges but explained that he would like to speak first about news and achievements from the past year.

President Mote explained that the campus is welcoming 9,000 new students this Fall. They have the highest qualification of any entering class with an average SAT score of 1285 and an average GPA of 3.93. He also explained that our graduation rates for all students, including those from underrepresented groups, continue to climb.

President Mote gave an update on the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI). He explained that the institute will cease to exist after June 30, 2010 and that our campus will welcome parts of UMBI into our University. These include the Center for Biosystems Research and the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology. He further explained that the Bioengineering program will connect more closely to health sciences at the University of Maryland Baltimore. He compared this merger to adding a new school to the campus.

President Mote welcomed five new deans: Kevin Klose, Journalism, John Townshend, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Donald Kettl, School of Public Policy, Darryll Pines, A. James Clark School of Engineering, and Patricia Steele, Libraries.

President Mote highlighted several awards and appointments including:

- Eugenia Kalnay won the world's top prize in Meteorology, the 2009 International Meteorological Organization Prize given by the World Meteorological Organization.
- Vincent Carretta of English and Eve Ostriker of Astronomy won Guggenheims.
- Five faculty members were elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Four faculty members won Fulbright Scholarships.
- John Weeks was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.
- Sankar Das Sarma of Physics was ranked 18th among all physicists worldwide, including the Nobel laureates, on the impact of his publications.
- Student Awards: three Goldwater Scholars, one Udall Scholar, seven Fulbrights, and 12 NSF Graduate Fellows, among 111 students winning national awards.
- Our chapter of the Society of Black Engineers was recognized as the nation's most distinguished chapter for 2008 out of 270 chapters.
- The Council for Advancement and Support of Education recognized our University Relations team with four 2009 Circle of Excellence awards including a Gold Medal.
- Kiplinger's Personal Finance awarded us our highest ranking as the nation's ninth best value in public higher education.
- The Ranking Web of Universities places us #18 out of 15,000 universities worldwide in our use of the web.
- For doctorates awarded to African-American students, the University ranks #8 nationally and at the top of AAU universities.

- The most recent Academic Ranking of World Universities places us at 37th in the world, 28th in the nation, and 12th among public universities.
- Our campus was also identified as a "Tree Campus USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation, recognizing our dedication to environmental stewardship.

President Mote explained that the University returns more than \$8 to the State for every \$1 the State invests in us. The faculty raise more than \$3 in research funds for every \$1 paid in salary by the State. The university ranks among the most productive economic engines in the State.

President Mote gave updates on facilities, including the new Knight Hall for Journalism, the renovation of Tawes Hall for English, the renovation of Tyser Tower at Byrd Stadium and the new elevator in the Main Administration building. However, the President did explain that the cost of our facility renovation backlog tops \$600M and the space shortage exceeds 1.3M square feet.

President Mote explained that Maryland Day has been a huge success, including collaboration with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the U.S. National Archives, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Prince George's County and the City of College Park. The development program has also been successful in raising \$113M over the past year and \$518M in research funding was raised.

President Mote also highlighted the accomplishments of the athletics program, including:

- National championships from Women's Field Hockey and Men's Soccer
- Five Atlantic Coast Conference championships
- 271 athletes on the ACC academic honor roll

President Mote gave an update on the implementation of the Strategic Plan this past year, including:

- The General Education task force, chaired by Ira Berlin is working on its proposals.
- An Honors College was created to include the earlier programs as well as new programs.
- A diversity plan for the next decade is being prepared.
- We have intensified recruitment efforts for the State's highest achieving students.
- The Office of International Programs was reviewed and will soon be reorganized.
- The budget reallocation process led to \$8.5M in adjustments to advance the priorities of the Strategic Plan.
- Housing for students is expanding with additional beds in South Campus Commons and a new dorm on North Campus, as well as five new private projects adjacent to the campus.
- A Sustainability Council has been formed to monitor our progress on sustainability.
- New administrative applications that will provide access to institutional services will be developed, including a new course management module and voice over IP telephone service for our campus network.

President Mote also gave an update on the budget situation, including an overview of the two cuts in the FY10 budget and the possibility of further reductions before the end

of the fiscal year. He explained that the web-based suggestion box ideas are being implemented. The total reduction for FY10 is \$37.8M with \$11.2M in base reductions, \$16.4M in reserve reductions and \$10.2M in furloughs. He further explained that the FY11 budget could have a deficit of over \$1B on the total \$13B State budget. The President stressed the importance of the people of the university, including faculty, students and staff. The salaries and benefits account for over 70% of our State support. He explained that furloughs have been mandated by the State and will be distributed based on salary level. We are also considering the possibility of closing the campus for several days. He stressed that the \$37.8M reduction will impact our entire community.

President Mote thanked the Senate for its patience, counsel and willingness to work together with the administration. He also acknowledged that we will continue to move forward with our plans for the Purple Line and the East Campus town center. We will also continue to be guided by the priorities of the strategic plan. President Mote closed his speech by urging the campus to “never let up.”

Chair Miller-Hooks thanked the President for his remarks and opened the floor for a few brief questions.

Senator Robert Hayes, Undergraduate, College of Engineering asked why the furlough plan is being completed before the Town Hall Meeting.

President Mote responded that it is better to go into the Town Hall meeting with a plan as a basis for discussion. There are complicated issues involved in developing such a plan so it is better present a thought out plan for the university community to debate.

Senator Matthew Bernstein, Undergraduate, Robert H. Smith School of Business, asked if other institutions are implementing furloughs and if the university is doing anything to keep our best faculty.

President Mote stated that there were a lot of examples of institutions implementing furloughs, including Berkeley, which has assigned 26 days of furlough. He further clarified that furloughs were not a choice but rather designated by the State. He said that the campus community was more supportive of furloughs than layoffs.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Senate Chair Miller-Hooks adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.